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SECRETARY FISHER DRAWS FROM FARMERS STORY OF THEIR WORK AND DIFFICULTIES IN HAWAII

Unusually interesting testimony from the standpoint of a farmer in Hawaii was given before Secretary Fisher yesterday, at the concluding hearing of the series here. Thomas Gouvea, a farmer and dairyman, was first called.

Dairyman Tells Story.
Mr. Ashford: Before we begin, I would like to have you hear from Mr. Gouvea.

(Spells his name Gouvea.)
Fisher: And where do you live, Mr. Gouvea?
Gouvea: I am living on Oahu. I have a ranch also on the island.

Fisher: Well, where abouts; you mean on the island here?
Gouvea: Yes.
Fisher: How far from Honolulu?
Gouvea: About 4 to 5 miles.
Fisher: About 45 miles?
Ashford: Between 4 to 5 miles.
Fisher: Oh, between 4 and 5 miles.

Fisher: What business are you in?
Gouvea: Farming and dairymen.
Fisher: How long have you been here?

Gouvea: About eight years.
Fisher: Where did you come from?
Gouvea: Here.
Fisher: Were you born in the Territory?

Gouvea: Yes sir.
Fisher: What has been your business since you have been working?
Gouvea: Farming.
Fisher: Have you ever worked for any of the plantations?

Gouvea: Well I worked a very short while.
Fisher: Most of the time you have been working—farming—for yourself?
Gouvea: I have been running a dairy farm.

Fisher: What do you do with your products?
Gouvea: Sell them.
Fisher: What do you sell?
Gouvea: Milk, pigs and live stock.

Fisher: You do sell cattle, do you?
Gouvea: Sure.
Fisher: How large a ranch do you run?

Gouvea: Down here I have about 22 dairy cows and 150 head of stock on the island.

Fisher: 22 dairy cows near Honolulu here?
Gouvea: Yes sir.

How far are the cattle from Honolulu; are they at the same place near where your dairy is? Are the 150 head of stock here?

They are on Hawaii.
So you still do some cattle business on Hawaii, do you?

Sure.
Do you ship cattle from there?
Sometimes I do.

Fisher: Here to Honolulu?
Gouvea: Sure.
What experience have you had with the Inter-Island Co.?

Some times they won't bring the cattle down.

What do you mean?
Well, sometimes I ask him to bring the cows down, and can't get them for two or three months, because he says he have no room on the boat.

How near are the cattle from the nearest harbor or port?
Five or 6 miles.

What harbor is that?
Kaliua.

Is there any railroad connection between or near your ranch and Kaliua?

No.
How often do the steamers stop at Kaliua?

Three times a month.
Fisher: That is the regular stop, is it?

Gouvea: Yes sir.
Fisher: They frequently stop, you say, but there are no accommodations for your cattle?

Gouvea: Yes, sir.
What is the trouble?
Well, if you have 30 head they may send a steamer for them, but if you only have one or two, they won't take them in because the steamer is too full.

How often does that happen?
Lots of times.

How about the charges—what do they charge?
Before they used to charge \$7.00 a head; now they charge \$5.00 for cattle and \$7.00 for horses.

\$7.00 for horses and \$5.00 for a steer or cow?

Yes.
How long ago did they make that reduction?
Not very long ago—probably a year ago.

A year ago. Is the service any better now than it used to be, or do you have just as much trouble?
Says Service is worse.

Worse than before.
The rates are lower, but the service is not so good?

Yes. They don't give a chance for a man.
Fisher: Is there anybody else raising cattle in that neighborhood besides you?

Gouvea: Sure.
Fisher: Do they have the same trouble as you do?

Gouvea: Yes.
Fisher: How do you get your milk into Honolulu?
Gouvea: I sell it wholesale.

Fisher: Do you bring it in yourself?
Gouvea: No, they go and get it.

How do they get it—wagons or—
Fisher: Are you pretty well satisfied with the other conditions here except the transportation?

Gouvea: The animals are treated cruel on the boats.
Fisher: How do they treat them cruelly?

"Blooming Cow."
Gouvea: Every blooming cow that comes here has its tail or leg broken. The receipts say that the shipping is at the owner's risk, so they don't care how they treat them.

Who takes care of these cattle on the boat: what kind of people, Hawaiians?

Some Hawaiians.
What is the trouble do you think? Is the trouble with the men themselves or with the officers of the boat?

Sometimes the trouble is with the men, I think. The officers don't control them or make them behave right. Sometimes the officers don't see them and sometimes they do. They ship cattle and pigs—everything together.

They ship pigs and cattle together? Yes.
Have you ever complained about these things to the Company?

Sure, sometimes I did complain but what's a poor man going to do? Who did you talk to?

To the office.
To the general office here in Honolulu?

Yes.
Whom did you see?
I saw Mr. McLean.

Ashford: Mr. McLean is Vice-President of the Company.
Fisher: What did he say?

Gouvea: Well I went to see him about a horse that got killed coming here. Well they paid me for the horse. I had a crate of chickens come down and they were dead. I went to see him and he told me to come around again, but it didn't amount to much, so didn't care to go again.

Fisher: Not a big enough loss. But you did get paid once for a horse?

Gouvea: Yes, the horse struck its head on the boat when it was being loaded onto the boat, and it was killed.

Fisher: They didn't load him carefully? What did they pay you for the horse?

Gouvea: They paid me just what I paid for him.

Fisher: Now are those two times—the time you went to see about the horse and the time you went to see about the chickens—the only times you ever went to see the officers?

Gouvea: Yes.
Fisher: Have you complained at the ranch?

Gouvea: What is the use to make complaints, because they put on the receipts "at the owner's risk."

Fisher: Frequently they won't take your cattle because they say the boat is loaded?

Gouvea: Sure, lots of times. Have you complained about that? Sure, lots of times.

What did they say?
They say they will see about it. They put you off? Did they go on just the same, or was it better?

Oh, just the same.
Did you see the same man as you did when you went to complain about the horse and chickens?

No, not the same man.
Who did you see?
I always asked the Captain of the boat; and he says he can't bring them.

Fisher: Where did you ask the Captain—here or on the island?

Gouvea: Here.
Fisher: The trouble you have is when you have only two or three head? Where do you go to find out whether they will take them or not?

Gouvea: I generally ask the Captain.
Fisher: Where, here in Honolulu?

Gouvea: Sometimes here in Honolulu; and sometimes on the islands.
Fisher: When the boat leaves Honolulu to go out to Hawaii, what does he say then?

Gouvea: Says he has a load and can't bring them.

Fisher: Before the boat leaves Honolulu at all he has arrangements for a load on the island?

Gouvea: Yes.
Fisher: You say this happens pretty frequently?

Gouvea: Yes, sir.
Olson: What Captains have you asked?

Gouvea: Well, Captain Thompson.
Olson: Any others?

Gouvea: Capt. Simerson, who used to be Captain of the Mauna Loa.

Olson: Any others?
Gouvea: No others.
Fisher: That is all, Mr. Gouvea, thank you.

Fisher: Mr. Ashford, have you anything you would like to say?

Ashford: At this point, Mr. Secretary, I would like to hand you a memorandum concerning an application of 34 residents of Kohala made on February 24, 1911, and acknowledged on February 26, 1911, for opening up lands in that district. There has been nothing done since. I will not take this matter up further at this time, in order that the Land Commissioner, as others on the Governor's side may have time to look the matter up and explain it, if they care to.

Mr. Hemenway: I'll make a memorandum of it.

Fisher: Anything else, Mr. Ashford?

Ashford: No, Mr. Secretary. Mr. J. B. Lightfoot I would like to have examined, but we will not delay matters. If there is time this morning I would like to have it done.

Fisher: Is he in the room?

Ashford: No.
Fisher: Well, if he comes in let me know.

W. D. McWayne Called.

Fisher: Mr. McWayne, will you take the stand please, or sit down here? Mr. McWayne, what is your first name?

McWayne: Wilbur.

Fisher: I understand that you are farming on this island?

McWayne: Yes, sir.

Fisher: At what point?

McWayne: At Wahiawa.

Fisher: Tell us how you came to locate there and what experience you have had.

McWayne: Well, when I came to the country I was a druggist. But after two years the drug store was sold out, and as it was the only drug

store in the country, I went on to the Waimanalo Plantation. From there I came back to Honolulu and went into the small farming business, and have followed farming ever since.

Fisher: When did you come here?
McWayne: In 1879.

Fisher: How did you happen to come here?

A. Well, I came on a three months' vacation. My brother had a drug store here and I went to work for him.

Q. Had you been in the drug business on the mainland at any time before coming here?

I worked in a drug store there near Chicago.

Had you been on a farm prior to your coming here?

Yes.
So you had had some practical experience on the mainland in farming?

Yes, sir.

5-DETAILED HEARING.
Fisher: After you stopped being a druggist you went back to farming?

McWayne: Yes sir.

Q. How did you proceed to take up the land, under the homestead law, or did you buy it from an individual?

A. I had land belonging to myself. How did you buy it?

I bought it from Byron O. Clark. How large a piece is it?

Ten acres.

What are you raising on it? Pineapples, bananas and oranges. You are raising fruit entirely?

Yes, sir.

Have you a family?

A wife.
No children?

No, sir.

Who is doing the work?

I do.

Do you do all the work yourself?

I do most of it, but occasionally I hire labor.

Q. Is there labor available in that locality?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What kind of people do you usually hire?

A. Japanese.

What do you have to pay?

\$1.25 a day.

Are there any plantations in that neighborhood?

Yes.

What are they engaged in?

Raising pineapples.

Any sugar there?

Just a little.

These plantations are chiefly devoted to pineapple raising?

Yes.

What do the plantations pay for labor?

\$1.00, \$1.10 and \$1.25 a day.

They pay the same as you do, then?

Yes.

Some pay less?

Those that pay less, do they furnish anything in addition to the wages?

Sometimes wood and water.

Are you making a go of it?

Yes, fairly well.

Hard Work As Obstacle.

What are the principal obstacles that you find in working on the farm here?

A. Well I don't know; principally hard work.

Q. Hard physical labor?

A. Yes.

Q. Are there any other obstacles in the way than that of labor?

A. Well some things don't grow in certain localities; it is hard to make some things grow.

Q. How do these things that you are raising grow in your locality?

A. Well in some places good and some places not very well.

Q. Are there many people doing farming in a small way in your neighborhood?

A. Not many. Most Orientals.

Q. You are the only small farmer in that immediately vicinity that is a white man?

A. I think so.

Q. Where do you and your wife get your social associations and so on?

A. Well, there are neighbors around there—people that work on the plantations.

Q. Those that do the actual work on the plantations, or the employees, clerks, etc.?

A. Well the superintendent, overseers, clerks in the office, etc.

Q. Are there a number of those so that there is social life in the vicinity?

A. Yes, and we come to town often.

So you don't feel marooned there?

Oh no.

Do you have any trouble in shipping your stuff after you get it picked?

No.

I understand that you were raising pineapples and several other kinds of fruit. Do you raise enough of the other kinds for shipment?

I raise them in small lots and sell them right there.

What is the nearest town?

Honolulu.

How far are you from Honolulu?

About 21 miles.

What are your facilities in getting to and from Honolulu?

The railroad.

How far is your place from the railroad station?

About an eighth of a mile.

How are the ordinary country roads that go to the plantations in that neighborhood?

They have been kind of rough, but they are putting in the Belt Road and have repaired the government road, so they are generally pretty good.

You have no complaint to make of the care of the road?

No.

Q. How are the taxes, Mr. McWayne? Do they tax you on your house and land?

A. The taxes are nothing to complain of.

Q. Does everybody in your neighborhood pay about the same as you do, considering the value of their property?

Rich Men Gets Best Of It.

A. Oh, I suppose the rich man probably gets the benefit of it.
Q. You just naturally assume that he does?

Fisher: Mr. Ashford do you want to ask any questions, if so you may.
Ashford: How much experience in cane culture have you had?

McWayne: I worked a short time on the Waimanalo Plantation.

Ashford: Less than a year?
McWayne: Yes.

Ashford: Have you thought of the proposition of homesteading cane lands here, and if so, do you consider your experience sufficient to justify you in expressing an opinion?

McWayne: No, I don't think so.
Ashford: That is all.

Fisher: We are very much obliged, Mr. McWayne.

Fisher: Now let me see, Mr. Notley is one of the gentlemen suggested to hear from. Mr. Notley.

Fisher: Mr. Notley, what is your first name?

Notley: Charles Kahiliulani Notley.

Fisher: I notice that you have been an interested listener at these hearings. Are you a land owner, a land reuter, or so you own a homestead?

Notley: I am a homesteader.
Fisher: You are a homesteader?

A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been trying to homestead a piece of land?

A. Since 1879.

Q. How did you happen to go into the homesteading idea?

A. Well, I don't know; I had to provide for my family and thought I would take up a homestead and try to build up a home for the family. I made a mistake, I took up a homestead in 1898 instead of 1879.

Fisher: That brings it down to modern times—about 14 years ago.

Notley: Yes, about 14 years ago.
Fisher: Where was that?

A. In the Hamakua district of the island of Hawaii.

Q. Under what plan did you take up the homestead?

A. Under right-of-purchase lease.

Q. Were there others interested with you in the matter at the same time?

A. There were others with me. Others were taking up homesteads about the same time. In fact, I think in 1888 and 1889 I was one of the first surveyors who laid out the homestead lands.

Q. It was ten years after that before you took up your own homestead, then?

A. Yes.

Were there others who took up homesteads under the same plan?

Yes, under right-of-purchase lease. I think all the homesteaders in the Hamakua district, except a few, took them up under right-of-purchase leases.

What was the nationality of those homesteaders?

They were mixed; some Hawaiians and some Portuguese.

What is your nationality?

I am part Hawaiian.

And you are married? How much of a family have you?

I have been married 35 years.
How many children?

Four children and six grandchildren.

When you started in homesteading were the children living at home?

Yes.

Q. What were they—boys or girls?

A. Two boys and two girls.

Q. About how old were they then?

A. They were just attending school.

Q. How large a piece did you take up?

A. I took up a 72-acre piece.

Q. 72 acres?

A. Yes.

And what were you planning to raise on it?

Coffee.

Were there other people in that neighborhood also interested in coffee at that time?

A. Yes.

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